CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	358735.jpg
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1200593.006
Medium:	Computer Image File
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	Not stated
Applicant:	Hamilton District Court
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	30 July 2012
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The computer image file is deemed objectionable because it tends to support the exploitation of children for sexual purposes.

The image is a sexually explicit illustration of a naked and childlike female figure. The illustration appropriates a 12 year-old character from an anime television series and depicts the girl involved in sexual intercourse with a male figure (who is probably also a character from the series). The illustration is a parody, but it is nevertheless a highly sexualized image which perpetuates the idea that sex involving children is an acceptable subject for entertainment. The availability of such material tends to weaken the social taboos that protect children from abuse and has the potential to lead to the sexual exploitation of young and vulnerable members of society.

The classification of this publication interferes with the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention and is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression. The classification reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to protect its young and vulnerable members from sexual exploitation.